

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found in the specification at least at pages 12, 15, 17 and 18.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Drawings Satisfy all Formal Requirements

The Office Action did not acknowledge the formal drawings submitted with the February 5 Amendment. Approval of the February 5 drawings is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,493,732 to Aoyama et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,430 to Takakura et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,950,215 to Tabuchi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Aoyama et al. does not teach, disclose or suggest "the new permeable layer being based on a user entry of comments among multiple user entries, the new permeable layer including deterministic mark information for indicating a temporary layer display state

information based on a user entry of a deterministic designation to the document editing means," as recited in claim 1.

Aoyama et al. relates to storage of version information including the version name and creation date for a document or a program source (Abstract). Aoyama et al. displays an image in which version information is combined with configuration information, but does not relate to a user entry of a deterministic designation to the document editing means as claimed.

Accordingly, Aoyama et al. does not disclose or suggest the claimed features, as recited.

Takakura et al. does not remedy the deficiencies of Aoyama et al. Instead, Takakura et al. relates to frame within frame for a document processor, in which graphic data and character data are each framed and formed on a sheet of documents. Specifically, Takakura et al. discloses that a fixed frame to be moved on a document sheet is designated by an input (step 51) from the PD 1-7 (col. 18, lines 43-48). However, Takakura et al. does not disclose or suggest "the new permeable layer including deterministic mark information for indicating a temporary layer display state information based on a user entry of a deterministic designation," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Takakura et al. does not disclose or suggest the recited features.

Tabuchi also does not make up for the deficiencies of Aoyama et al. Instead, Tabuchi merely discloses "a document including a combination of memos for explanation and presentation data is presented to the publisher" (col. 11, lines 39-51). Tabuchi discloses a context information managing means which set a plurality of different context information according to data per container in which data is to be embedded, but does not relate to user entry of a deterministic designation to the document editing means as claimed (col. 6, lines 5-15). Accordingly, Tabuchi also does not disclose or suggest the claimed features, as recited.

As none of Aoyama et al., Takakura et al. and Tabuchi teach or suggest a new permeable layer being based on deterministic mark information entered by a user, the combination fails to teach or suggest the document editing apparatus of claim 1.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Richard J. Kim
Registration No. 48,360

JAO:RJK/mdw

Date: July 21, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
